



THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Originally effective: 4/14/2004

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Pursuant to the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended (“HIPAA”) and its regulations issued at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 through 164 (the “Privacy Regulations”), and as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (“HITECH Act”), this *Notice of Privacy Practices* (“Notice”) describes the uses and disclosures of protected health information (“PHI”) by Fairfax Neonatal Associates, P.C. (FNAPC),

A. Purpose of this Notice

FNAPC is required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information (“PHI”) and to provide you with this Notice about your rights and FNAPC’s legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI.

B. Uses and Disclosures of PHI to Carry Out Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations

The following describes how FNAPC may use or disclose your PHI to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations.

Treatment. Your PHI may be used by staff members, or disclosed to other health care professionals, for the purpose of evaluating your health, diagnosing medical conditions, and/or planning for your care and treatment. Some of the individuals at FNAPC who may use your PHI include staff physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, clinical nurse assistants, social workers, residents/medical/other students, and FNAPC’s administrative support staff. Your PHI may be communicated to the many health care professionals who contribute to your care, including, but not limited to your referring doctor, hospitals, and other health care specialists, translators, and ancillary services.

Example: Results of laboratory tests and procedures will be available in your medical record to all health care providers who may provide treatment to you or who may be consulted by staff members.

Payment. Your PHI may be used to seek payment from your health plan carrier, from other sources of coverage such as an automobile insurer, or from credit card companies you may use to pay for services. FNAPC may also provide your PHI to our business associates, such as billing companies, claims processing companies, and others who process the health care claims.

Example: FNAPC may need to give your health plan carrier information about your visit, diagnosis, procedures, and supplies used, so that FNAPC may receive payment for the health care services provided to you. FNAPC may tell your health plan carrier about treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.

Health Care Operations. FNAPC may use and disclose your PHI to run necessary administrative, educational, quality assurance, and business functions.

Example: FNAPC may use and disclose your PHI to evaluate the performance of its staff in caring for you. It may also use or disclose your PHI to manage its programs and activities.

C. Other Permitted Uses and Disclosures of PHI

Additionally, use and disclosure of your PHI is permitted under the following circumstances:

Treatment Alternatives and Health-Related Products or Services. FNAPC may use and disclose your PHI to tell you about, or recommend, possible treatment options, alternatives and health-related benefits, or services that may be of interest to you.

Research. Under certain circumstances, FNAPC may disclose your PHI for research purposes provided certain measures have been taken to protect your privacy.

Limited Data Set Information. FNAPC may disclose “limited data set” information to third parties for purposes of research, public health, or health care operations. This limited data set will not include information which could be used to identify you directly (such as your name, street address, social security number, etc.). It may include information such as admission, discharge, and service dates, date of birth/death, age, and your five-digit zip code.

As Required by Law. FNAPC will disclose your PHI when required to do so by federal, state, or local law. For example, your PHI may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies, to support government audits and inspections, to facilitate law-enforcement investigations, and to comply with government mandated reporting. Uses and disclosures of your PHI may be required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine FNAPC’s compliance with the Privacy Regulations.

Incidental Disclosures. Certain disclosures of your PHI may occur incidental to another lawful, permitted use and/or disclosure of your PHI.

Business Associates. FNAPC contracts with outside companies who perform business services for it, such as attorneys, accountants, or software vendors. In certain circumstances, FNAPC may need to share your PHI with a business associate so it can perform a service for FNAPC or on FNAPC’s behalf. FNAPC will limit the disclosure of your information to a business associate, to the minimum amount of information necessary, for the company to perform services for FNAPC. FNAPC will have a written contract in place with the business associate requiring it to protect the privacy and security of your PHI.

Organized Health Care Arrangement. FNAPC staff deliver care in a clinically integrated setting within the Inova hospital system. As part of Inova’s Organized Health Care Arrangement (OHCA), FNAPC utilizes a shared electronic health record database for services rendered at a hospital setting. As such, Inova’s Notice of Privacy Practices serves as a joint notice for FNAPC.

Health Information Exchange. FNAPC may make your PHI available electronically to other health care providers involved in your care via an information exchange service. Participation in information exchange services also allows FNAPC staff to see health care information about you from other health care providers who participate in the exchange.

Organ and Tissue Donation. FNAPC may disclose your PHI to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye, or tissue transplantation, or to an organ donation bank, as necessary, to facilitate a donation and transplantation.

Public Health Activities. FNAPC may disclose your health information to public health agencies as required or authorized by law to support public health activities. This generally includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- to prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
- to report births and deaths;
- to report reactions to medications or product defects and to enable product recalls, repairs or replacement, and conduct post-marketing surveillance;
- to notify the appropriate government authority if FNAPC believes a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. FNAPC will only make this disclosure if the patient agrees, or when required or authorized by law.

Serious or Imminent Threat to Health or Safety. FNAPC may use and disclose PHI about you, with some limitations, when necessary to prevent a serious or imminent threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

Health Oversight Activities. FNAPC may disclose your PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure.

Lawful Subpoena or Court Order. FNAPC may disclose PHI in response to a court or administrative order. FNAPC may also disclose PHI about you in certain cases in response to a subpoena, discovery request, if you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, or in response to a warrant, summons, or similar process, if asked to do so by law enforcement.

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors. FNAPC may disclose your PHI to a coroner or medical examiner, or to a funeral director, as necessary to allow him/her to carry out his/her duties.

Special Government Functions. FNAPC may disclose PHI as required by military authorities or to authorized Federal officials for national security and intelligence activities.

Workers' Compensation. FNAPC may disclose PHI to the extent necessary to comply with state law for workers' compensation programs or similar programs established by law.

D. Uses and Disclosures You May Limit

To Your Family Member, Other Relative, or Close Personal Friend. FNAPC may disclose your PHI to your family member, other relative, or close personal friend who are involved in your care or who help pay for your care, provided such PHI is directly relevant to such person's involvement in your health care, or to notify such person of your location, general condition, or death. FNAPC will not make any such disclosure unless you are given a reasonable opportunity under the circumstances to object and did, in fact, not object. If you are not present or able to agree to these disclosures of your PHI, then using professional judgment, FNAPC may determine whether the disclosure is in your best interest.

E. When Written Authorization is Required

Other than for those purposes identified in this Notice, FNAPC will not use or disclose your PHI for any purpose unless you give us specific written authorization to do so, including the following:

- uses and disclosures for marketing purposes; and
- the sale of PHI

If you change your mind after authorizing a use or disclosure of your PHI, you may submit a written revocation of the authorization. However, your decision to revoke the authorization will not undo any use or disclosure of information that occurred before you notified us of this decision. Your revocation will be effective upon FNAPC's receipt of your written notice of cancellation or modification of the authorization.

The Authorization to Use and/or Disclose Protected Health Information and the Revocation of Authorization to Use and/or Disclose Protected Health Information forms are available at www.fnapc.com or contact our office at (703) 289-1400.

FNAPC will not condition treatment or payment of services on your willingness to sign an authorization, except for research-related treatment or health care that is solely for the purpose of creating PHI for disclosure to a third party.

F. Your Rights Regarding Your PHI

Federal privacy standards provide you with the following rights:

Right to Breach Notification. You have the right to receive notification of any impermissible acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of your unsecured PHI. Should such a breach of your unsecured PHI occur, FNAPC, or its authorized representative, will notify you without unreasonable delay and in no case later than sixty (60) days after the date FNAPC discovered the breach.

Unsecured PHI is PHI that has not been rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable by means of encryption or destruction.

Right to Inspect and Copy. With limited exceptions, you have the right to inspect and obtain copies of your PHI used by or for FNAPC to make decisions about your care or payment for your care.

To inspect and obtain copies of your PHI contained in a designated record set, contact the medical records department at the location where you received care. You must make your request in writing. There may be a reasonable cost-based charge for the copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request.

For any portion of your PHI maintained in FNAPC's electronic medical record, you may request it be provided to, or for, you in an electronic format.

FNAPC may deny your request to inspect and obtain copies of your PHI under limited circumstances. If access is denied, you will be provided with a written denial setting forth the basis for the denial, a description of how you may exercise those review rights, and a description of how you may complain to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Right to Amend. If you feel your PHI is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask FNAPC to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment from FNAPC as long as the information is kept by, or for, FNAPC. An amendment is not necessary to correct clerical errors.

To request an amendment, contact the Privacy Officer identified at the end of this Notice. Your request must be submitted in writing, and you must provide a reason supporting your request. FNAPC may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, FNAPC may deny your request if you ask it to amend information which:

- was not created by FNAPC;
- is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and/or copy; or
- is already accurate and complete.

If the request is denied in whole or part, you will receive a written denial that explains the basis for the denial. You may then submit a written statement of disagreement with FNAPC's decision and have that statement included with any future disclosures of your PHI.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures made by FNAPC in the previous six (6) years. These disclosures will not include those made for treatment, payment, or health care operations, or pursuant to your authorization. You may obtain a form from the Privacy Officer identified at the end of this Notice.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on how FNAPC uses or discloses your PHI:

1. for treatment, payment, or health care operations purposes;
2. to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for it, such as a family member or friend;
3. or disclosures to a health plan carrier for payment of health care operations purposes when you have paid for the item or service for which the health care provider involved has been paid out-of-pocket in full.

FNAPC is not required to agree to your request, except for the request noted in item three (3) above. To request a restriction on billing records, you must submit your request in writing to FNAPC. To request a restriction on medical records, you must submit your request to the hospital or the service location where you received your care.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request FNAPC communicate with you involving PHI in a certain manner or at a certain location. For example, you may ask that FNAPC only contact you at work or by mail. Your request must be in writing. FNAPC will accommodate reasonable requests.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have a right at any time to request a paper copy of this Notice, even if you had previously agreed to receive an electronic copy. To request a paper copy of this Notice, contact the Privacy Officer identified at the end of this Notice.

G. Personal Representatives

You may exercise your rights through a personal representative. Such representative must produce evidence of her/his authority to act on your behalf before that person will be given access to your PHI or allowed to take any action for you. Proof of such authority may take one of the following forms:

- a power of attorney for health care purposes, notarized by a notary public;
- a court order of appointment of the person as the conservator or guardian of the individual; or the parent of a minor child.

FNAPC retains discretion to deny access to your PHI to a personal representative under certain circumstances (e.g., to protect those who may be subject to abuse or neglect, including minors).

H. Communications

FNAPC may contact you by mail, telephone, or email. FNAPC may leave voice messages at the telephone number you provide us, and we may respond to your email. However, you should understand that there are certain risks associated with the use of email. It may not be secure as it could be intercepted and viewed by others. In addition, the email messages could be misdirected or misaddressed, sent to email accounts shared with others, messages that can be forwarded on to others, or messages stored on portable devices that may not be protected.

I. Changes to this Notice

FNAPC reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time for any reason to the extent permitted by law, effective for PHI it already has about you, as well as any information FNAPC receives in the future.

This Notice, or any material revisions, will be posted on FNAPC's website, www.fnapc.com.

J. Questions or Concerns

If you would like to submit a question or concern about FNAPC's privacy practices, or obtain more information about your patient rights, you may do so by contacting the Privacy Officer:

Fairfax Neonatal Associates, P.C.
ATTN: Privacy Officer
3060 Williams Drive, Suite 520
Fairfax, VA 22031
Phone Number (703) 289-1400

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may submit your complaint in writing to the Privacy Officer. You may also contact the Privacy Officer by telephone. If FNAPC cannot resolve your concern, you also have the right to file a written complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint.